

County Snapshot

County Snapshot

San Mateo County is in the middle of a continuous urban area stretching from San Jose (Santa Clara County) in the south to San Francisco in the north. It is bordered on the west by the Pacific Ocean and on the east by San Francisco Bay.

San Mateo County 's population is projected to be 855,500 by 2020. This will mean moderate but steady growth over the next twenty years.

The 1999 annual average statistics show the civilian labor force for San Mateo County to be 399,100 with an unemployment rate of 2.0 percent. This is significantly lower than the state's unemployment rate of 5.2 percent. The county had the second-lowest jobless rate of any of the 58 counties.

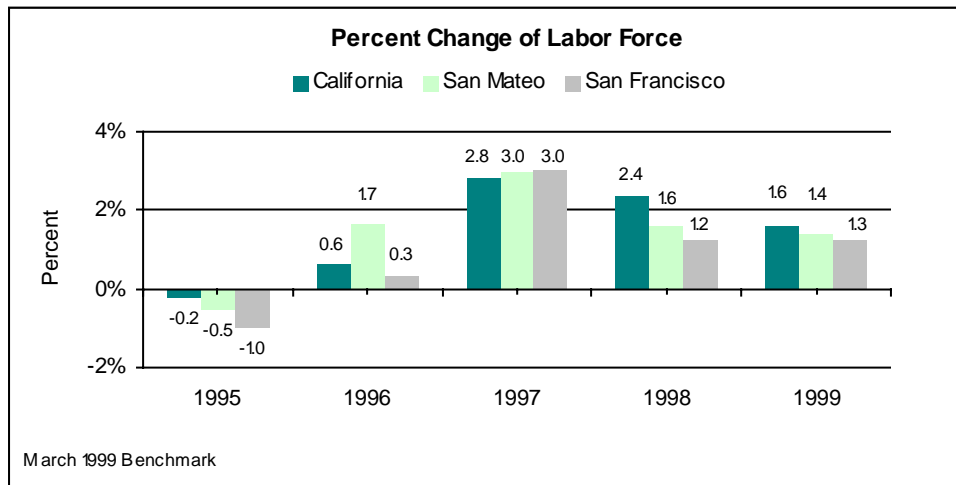
Services is the largest industry in the county accounting for 32.7 percent of total employment with business services being the largest component. Other significant industry sectors are retail trade (16.7 percent) and transportation and public utilities (11.6 percent).

Services is also the fastest growing industry with a seven year projected growth rate of 30.1 percent. The largest growth in this area is due to gains in software development and related computer services.

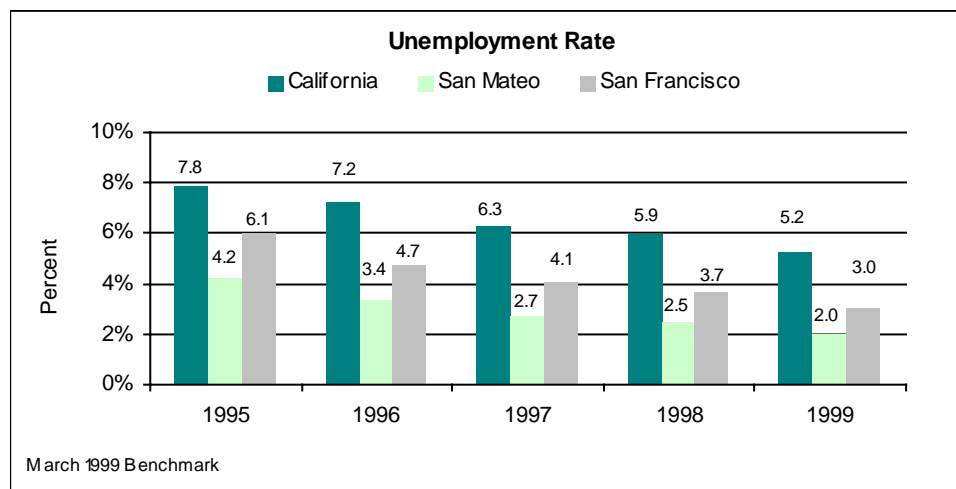
San Mateo County will continue to show steady industry employment growth in conjunction with a gradual population increase.

LABOR FORCE

San Mateo County's civilian labor force declined in 1995. In 1996, the county rebounded with 1.7 percent growth. Over this period, San Mateo kept pace with the state with 7.9 percent growth compared to 7.6 percent for the state. Neighboring San Francisco County maintained 6.0 percent change during this period.

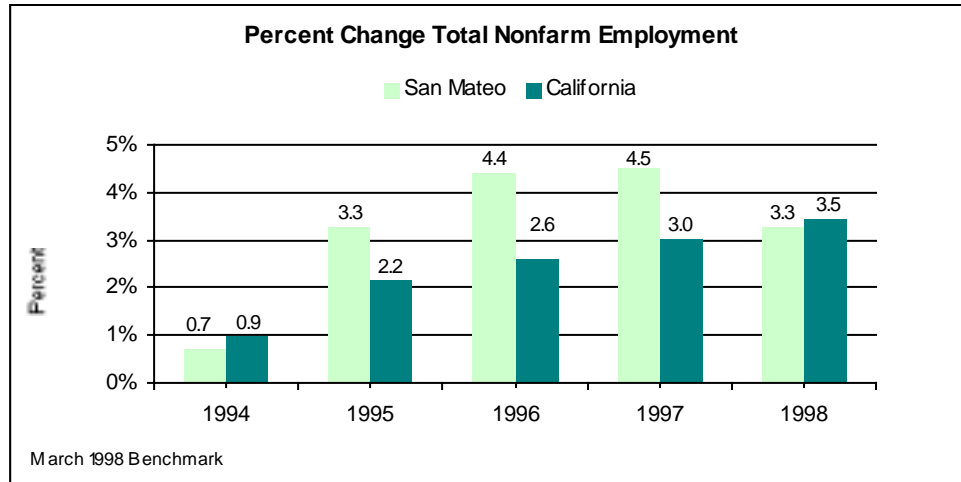


Since 1995, unemployment rates are lower for San Mateo and San Francisco counties than for the state, indicative of the increasing employment opportunities in the area. Over this period, San Mateo County has been consistently below the state unemployment rate by 3.0 percentage points or more.

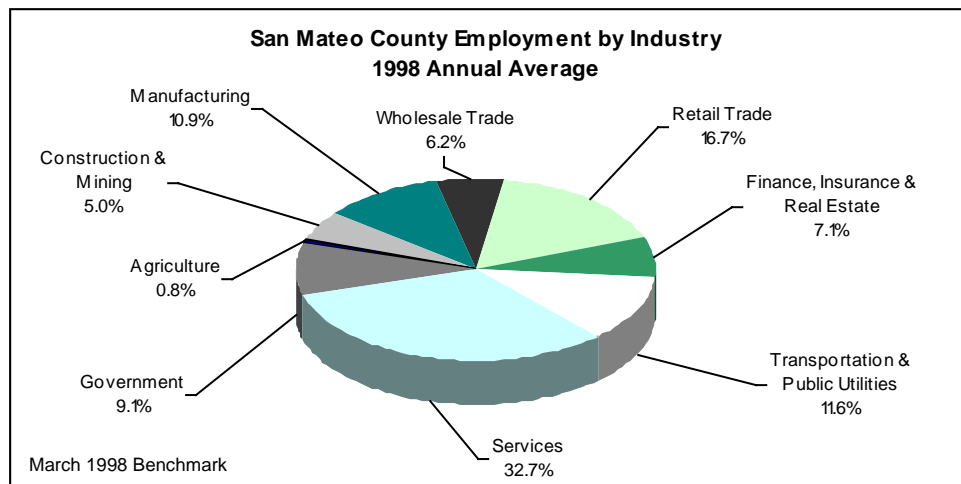


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

San Mateo County nonagricultural wage and salary employment has shown strong growth since 1994. Payroll employment in 1998 grew by 3.3 percent or 10,900 jobs with services accounting for almost one-fourth of the growth.



In 1998, San Mateo County employment was dominated by the services, retail trade, and transportation and public utilities sectors. During the forecast period of 1995 to 2002, it is expected that 80 percent of job growth in the county will be in services, manufacturing, and retail trade.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. San Mateo County is projected to have employment opportunities not only in these high turnover occupations but also in the more technologically advanced categories.

Associated Occupations	SERVICES 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 30.1%
	Computer Engineers – 1780 job openings. Assist in the selection and installation of computer systems by providing technical advice and support. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$35.14
	Computer Programmers – 1210 job openings. Convert symbolic statements of administrative data, business, scientific, engineering, and other technical problem formulations into detailed logical flow charts for coding into computer language. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$ 32.01
	Systems Analysts, Electronic Data Processor – 1130 job openings. Analyze business, scientific, and technical problems for application to electronic data processing systems. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$30.95
	General Managers, Top Executives – 980 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$40.51
	Janitors, Cleaners, Except Maids – 950 job openings. Keep buildings in clean and orderly condition; perform heavy cleaning duties such as operating motor driven cleaning equipment, mopping floors, washing walls and glass, and removing rubbish. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.49
Associated Occupations	MANUFACTURING 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 14.4%
	Assemblers, Fabricators-Except Machine, Electrical – 400 job openings. Assemble and/or fit together parts to form complete units or subassemblies at a bench, conveyor line, or on the floor. Duties are of a non-precision nature. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.97
	Computer Support Specialist – 280 job openings. Provide technical assistance and training to computer system users. They investigate and resolve computer software and hardware problems for users. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$23.04
	Electrical And Electronic Engineers – 240 job openings. Design, develop, test and supervise the manufacture and installation of electrical and electronic equipment, components or systems, computers and related equipment and systems for commercial, industrial, military or scientific use. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$33.33
	Electrical Equipment Assemblers Precision – 200 job openings. Assemble or modify prototypes or final assemblies of electrical or electronic equipment, such as missile control systems, radio and test equipment, computers, numerical control machine tools, radar, sonar, telemetering systems, or appliances. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$14.19
	General Managers, Top Executives – 180 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$40.51
Associated Occupations	RETAIL TRADE 1995 – 2002 Projected Growth 10.9%
	Cashiers – 860 job openings. Handle cash and credit payments, make change, give receipts, account for all payments, and perform related clerical duties. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.40
	Waiters And Waitresses – 830 job openings. Serve food and drink to customers. Duties may include explanation about how the meal is prepared, wine recommendations or simple food preparation at the table. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$6.26
	Salespersons, Retail – 810 job openings. Get the customer interested by describing the merchandise and showing how it is used. May also order merchandise, stock shelves, mark price tags, take inventory and prepare displays. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.30
	Food Preparation Workers – 350 job openings. Keep kitchen work areas clean and orderly, keep restaurant equipment and utensils clean, move supplies and wash dishes, trays, pots and pans used in cooking and serving. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.77
	Combined Food And Prep Service – 270 job openings. Do both food preparation and food service. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.07

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:
State of California
Employment Development Department
Labor Market Information Division
(916) 262-2162